Attorney's Docket: 2002DE433
Preliminary Amendment

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

- 1.(Currently Amended) A continuous process for preparing <u>an</u> additive <u>mixtures</u> mixtures for <u>improving cold flow properties of mineral oils and mineral oil distillates, said additive mixture comprising</u>
- A) a cold flow improver for middle distillates, and at least one further component selected from B) and C): comprising
- B) a further cold flow improver, <u>and/or</u>
- C) an organic solvent,

which comprises said process comprising mixing the cold flow improver and optionally solvent by means of and the at least one further component in a static mixer to provide, the temperature of the additive mixture at the an outlet temperature of the static mixer being from 0°C to 100°C.

- 2.(Currently Amended) The process as claimed in of claim 1, wherein the outlet temperature of the additive mixture at the outlet of the static mixer is from 30 to 90°C, preferably from 50 to 85°C.
- 3.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2, wherein the cold flow improver comprises at least one copolymer of ethylene and further ethylenically unsaturated comonomers.
- 4.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the cold flow improver comprises at least one oil-soluble polar nitrogen compound.
- 5.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, wherein the cold flow improver comprises at least one comb polymer.

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- 6.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, wherein the cold flow improver comprises at least one alkylphenolaldehyde resin.
- 7.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, wherein the cold flow improver comprises at least one polyoxyalkylene derivative.
- 8.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, wherein the cold flow improver comprises at least one olefin copolymer.
- 9.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8, wherein the static mixer comprises a helical mixer having helical element groups consisting of having from from 2 to 200 mixing elements is used.
- 10.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9, wherein the static mixer has a mixing zone having a relative mixer length-L/D of from 2 to 50, where L is the length and D is the diameter of the mixing zone.
- 11.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 10 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 10, wherein the a pressure drop over the mixing zone is less than 10 bar.
- 12.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 11, wherein the a mixing time is less than 60 s.

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13.(Currently Amended) The process of <u>claim 1</u> as <u>claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12</u>, wherein the cold flow improver comprises a terpolymer which, apart from ethylene, contains from 0.1 to 12 mol%, <u>in particular from 0.2 to 5 mol%</u>, of vinyl neononanoate or of vinyl neodecanoate, and from 3.5 to 20 mol%, <u>in particular from 8 to 15 mol%</u>, of vinyl acetate, and the <u>a</u> total comonomer content is between 8 and 21 mol%, <u>preferably between 12 and 18 mol</u>%.

14.(Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 13, wherein the cold flow improver comprises a terpolymer which, apart from ethylene and from 8 to 18 mol% of vinyl esters, also contains from 0.5 to 10 mol% of olefins selected from the group consisting of propene, butene, isobutylene, hexene, 4-methylpentene, octene, diisobutylene, and/or norbornene, and mixtures thereof.

15.(Currently Amended) An additive mixture prepared according to the process of claim 1 as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 14.

16.(Currently Amended) A fuel oil prepared according to the process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 14 comprising a mineral oil or a mineral oil distillate and the additive mixture of claim 1.

17.(New) The process of claim 1, wherein the outlet temperature of the additive mixture at the outlet of the static mixer is from 50 to 85°C

18.(New) The process of claim 1, wherein the cold flow improver comprises a terpolymer which, apart from ethylene, contains from 0.2 to 5 mol %, of vinyl neononanoate or of vinyl neodecanoate, and from 3.5 to 12 mol%, of vinyl acetate, and a total comonomer content is between 8 and 21 mol%.

19.(New) The process of claim 1, wherein the cold flow improver comprises a terpolymer which, apart from ethylene, contains from 0.2 to 5 mol%, of vinyl neononanoate or of vinyl neodecanoate, and from 8 to 15 mol%, of vinyl acetate, and the total comonomer content is between 12 and 18 mol %.

20.(New) The process of claim 1, wherein the cold flow improver comprises a terpolymer which, apart from ethylene, contains from 0.1 to 12 mol%, of vinyl neononanoate or of vinyl neodecanoate, and from 8 to 15 mol%, of vinyl acetate, and the total comonomer content is between 12 and 18 mol %.

21.(New) A process for the preparation of an additive mixture, said process comprising passing a cold flow improver to a static mixer and therein mixing the cold flow improver with a further cold flow improver selected from the group consisting of a further ethylene copolymer, an oil-soluble polar nitrogen compound, a comb polymer, an alkylphenol aldehyde resin, a polyoxyalkylene derivative, an olefin copolymer, an organic solvent, and mixtures thereof, wherein the cold flow improver and the further cold flow improver is a copolymer of ethylene and at least one olefinically unsaturated compound, the static mixer having from 2 to 200 mixing elements and said static mixer having an outlet temperature ranging from 30 oC to 90oC to provide said additive mixture.

22.(New) The process of claim 21, wherein the olefinically unsaturated compound is selected from the group consisting of a vinyl ester, an acrylic ester, a methacrylic ester, an alkyl vinyl ether, an alkene, and mixtures thereof. (Is this sufficient? How should we add substituted by hydroxyl groups, does this only apply to the alkenes?)

23.(New) The process of claim 22, wherein the olefinically unsaturated compound have alkyl groups which are substituted by one or more hydroxyl groups.

24.(New) The process of claim 21 wherein the mixing elements are helical mixing elements.